An important strategy of expansion consists of development of institutional capacity in all institutions with special focus on backward, rural, remote areas and small towns. Resources permitting, Government is considering to establish 30 new Central Universities and to provide some assistance to the State Governments, to incentivise them to establish at least one college in each district which has a low GER, during the Eleventh Plan period.

Abolition of NCTE

173. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to do away with the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) by repealing the NCTE Act, 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) With a view to assessing whether NCTE has fulfilled its mandate, a Review Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sudeep Banerjee, former Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Committee has *inter alia*, recommended that the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1993 may be repealed. The recommendations are under examination of the Government.

Co-operation between India and Pakistan in Education

174. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE;
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to gear up for major cooperation in the field of education which could result in exchange of books between NCERT and National Book Foundation, Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to share the expertise and experience of the two countries in the fields of elementary, secondary and adult education;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have decided to explore possibility of exhange of experiences between the NCERT and National Book Foundation, Pakistan and to reproduction of textbooks; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) A Working Group on

Education set up by the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission held its first meeting on 20th February, 2007 in New Delhi and identified, among others, the following areas for collaboration:

(i) Exchange of printed material on educational development in the two countries;

(ii) Exchange of experiences between National Book Foundation in Pakistan and National Book Trust (NBT) and the National Council for Educational Research & Training (NCERT) in India for the reproduction of books required for education; and

(iii) Exchange of expertise and experience in the fields of elementary, secondary and adult education.

As a follow up, NCERT has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the National Book Foundation, Pakistan.

Blacklisted NGOs connected with HRD activities

175. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have blacklisted certain NGOs connected with HRD activities during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list of NGOs blacklisted during the last two years is given in the Statement (*See* below). Blacklisting of NGOs is done in cases where it is found that the NGO is either not in position/ existence or not functioning from the given address, or for non submission of Audited Accounts/ Utilisation Certificates, or for submission of fake inspection reports purported to be from the District Magistrate or some other Competent Authority, or where Grants were not utilized for the Projects as per the objectives of the Schemes and for such other administrative and financial irregularities.

(c) Complaints received against NGOs are verified through the concerned State Governments. Wherever considered necessary, NGOs are proceeded against under the relevant provisions of the revenue Recovery Act/ Criminal Procedure Code, in consultation with State Governments. While the blacklisted NGOs shall no more be entitled for Government Grants in future, the Government, from time to time, also reviews and modifies the existing schemes with a view to plug the loopholes in the Schemes, if any.